

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace paragraph [0014] with the following amended paragraph:

[0014] The method described herein may be used to optimize the usage of available spare memory resources. The technique utilizes a relatively simple algorithm which can be implemented with minimal hardware overhead in case of low spare row/column count. The technique is also ~~sealable~~ scalable, as the number of faulty row/column registers depends on the number of spare rows and columns, not on the memory array size.